CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 12, No. 5 TORONTO, JANUARY 29, 1947 $2.00 Per Annum

Hollywoodians Hot At Scoffers

1,164-Seat Prefab House Operating

With typical Hollywood fanfare, Fox West Coast Theatres recently opened the world's first pre-fashioned motion picture house, the Crest Theatre in Long Beach, California.

The new theatre, according to Charles P. Skouras, president of

(Continued on Page 8)

Cut, Mat Prices Much Higher

Prices of mats and cuts have been increased by the engravers and this has been followed by the distributors upping charges for them. Costs of labor and material to the engravers in connection with mats and cuts have risen several time in the past

(Continued on Page 8)

Sneers At Pix And Praise of UK Foreign Product Draw Fire

Continuing attacks on Hollywood films as being stereotyped and without new ideas are becoming resented in every section of the domestic industry. Sam Goldwyn's criticism of his Hollywood colleagues, made prior to his visit to Great Britain, drew a lashing counter-attack by Darryl Zanuck and Walter Wanger. Goldwyn, apparently sensing that he had gone too far, made it up slightly to his fellow-Hollywoodians by minimizing British progress in a statement issued as he was leaving the Old Country but his later words did not receive the space his first ones enjoyed.

In New York Jerry Wald, producer of "Mildred Pierce" and "Humoresque" for Warner Broth-

(Continued on Page 5)

'Jolson Story' Sets Record

Columbia's "The Jolson Story," Technicolor biography of the life of the great mammy singer, is now in its fifth week at the Elgin, Ottawa, scene of the premiere Canadian run.

The film is the biggest weekly grosser in the history of the house and still going strong.

Runs in other situations are proving to be on a par with Ottawa, Canadian biz matching that across the border.

Larry Parks, who plays Jolson to the latter's dubbed singing, is high among the contenders for the Academy Award.

BC Theatre Sold

Guy Graham's 448-seat Park Theatre in White Rock, BC, has been reported sold to Mrs. D. Stone of Vancouver for $48,000.

Theatres Open In Ontario, BC

Described as being the most beautiful theatre in Northern Ontario, Premier Operating Corporation's Marathon, Ontario, theatre opened with public ceremonies last week. On hand for the opening of the new unit, which seats 540, were Gurston Al-

(Continued on Page 6)

Famous 25 Year Clubs Meeting

The 25 Year Club of Famous Players Canadian Corporation is celebrating its third birthday this month with dinners in Winnipeg, Vancouver and Toronto. The first dinner this year was held in the Gold Room of the Royal Alexander Hotel, Winnipeg,

(Continued on Page 3)

Ross McLean Now Head Of NFB

Canadian government film commissioner is Ross McLean, who has been officially appointed successor to John Grierson. McLean becomes chief officer of the National Film Board, a post held by Grierson until his resignation in 1945. McLean was deputy under Grierson and became acting commissioner when the latter left to enter private theatrical and non-theatrical production.

Born in Ethelbert, Manitoba, forty-one years ago, McLean brings to his new post a wide experience in both educational and film fields. A graduate of

(Continued on Page 3)

Writer Contracted

Mindret Lord has been signed to a writing contract by Paramount.

DESMOND WRIT DISMISSED IN NS

Writ of certiorari entered by Mrs. Viola Desmond, Negro beauty parlor operator of Halifax, to have records of a conviction of defrauding the government of a one-cent tax removed from the magistrate's court in New Glasgow, NS, to the Supreme Court was dismissed last week by Justice M. B. Archibald of the Nova Scotia Supreme Court. Grounds for the dismissal was that the writ was obviously a move to seek a review of the evidence after the time for an appeal had passed.

Counsel F. W. Bissett stated that Mrs. Desmond would appeal to the full bench of the Supreme Court.

Mrs. Desmond was convicted on November 9th of defrauding the government of one cent in that she had purchased a balcony ticket to the Roseland Theatre and then sat downstairs.

Salamis Replies To Report Critics

In answer to the distributors' disagreement with his method of computation in determining the ratio of rentals to boxoffice receipts, B. C. Salamis, Quebec exhibitor, whose report to the Quebec Allied Theatrical Industries set off a controversy, states that "The only correct procedure in the computation of these figures is to employ the same method as the Dominion Bureau of Statistics each succeeding year from 1933."

Salamis cites the 1945 report of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, "Motion Picture Theatres in Canada," as his authority. Table

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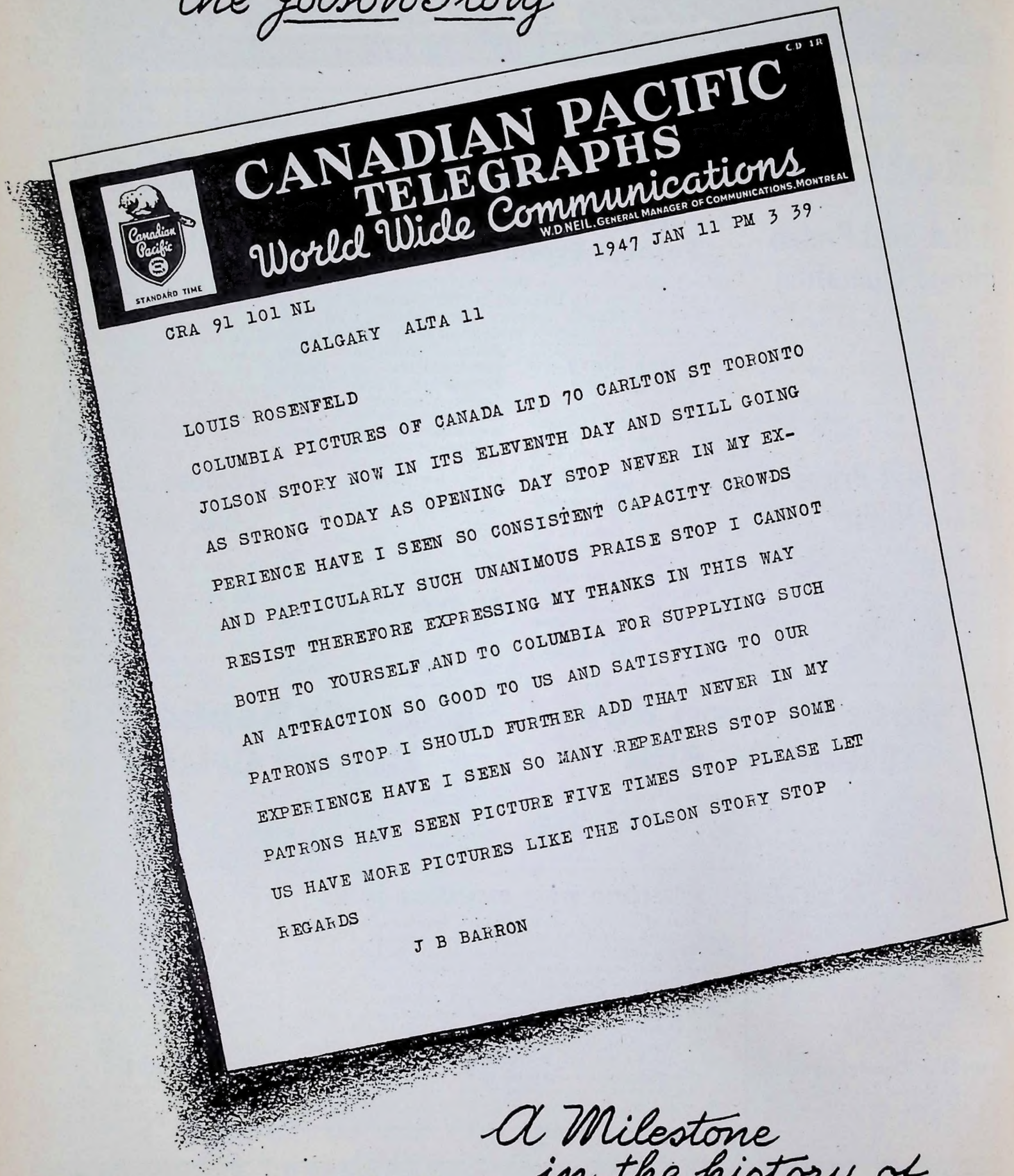
Sixth In Series

Sixth and final film in the current Hopalong Cassidy series will be "Strange Gamble."

YARMOUTH HOUSE TO ODEON

Operation of the Capitol Theatre, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, has been acquired by the Odeon-Garson Maritime pool, it has been jointly announced by I. A. Garson, Odeon and the Yarmouth Theatre and Amusement Company. The house seats 1,249.

Jack Barron, of the Grand Theatre, Calgary, confirms the story of the Jolson Story



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REGARDS

J B BARRON

A Milestone in the history of Columbia Pictures

Famous 25 Year Clubs Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

and the second in the Social Suite, Hotel Vancouver, Vancouver. Date of the Winnipeg dinner was the 15th and the Vancouver one took place on the 20th. The concluding affair is set for the Crystal Ballroom, King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on the 30th.

Each year, in addition to new members and their wives, members previously inducted and their wives are invited to be present. More than 150 persons are expected to attend the Toronto dinner, which will be the largest. There are now 89 members.

New members are offered their choice of a wrist watch or a bond and are presented with a diamond-set membership pin and a certificate of appreciation. They are given an extra two weeks vacation with pay each year. Wives of members are presented with a silver compact decorated with the crest of the club. "The Famous Family Album" of photographs of new members is issued each year.

Attending the western dinners and taking part in the inauguration ceremonies were J. J. Fitzgibbons, president; R. W. Bolstad, vice-president; Lawrence I. Bearg, western division manager; Morris Stein, eastern division manager; and James R. Nairn, director of advertising and public relations.

Ottawa Staff Shift By Famous Players

Ray Tubman, district supervisor for Famous Players Canadian Corporation announced recently two personnel changes at the Capitol and Regent Theatres in Ottawa.

William Cullum, who joined the staff of the Regent after his discharge from the RCAF two years ago, has been promoted to assistant to Tubman, manager of the Capitol.

Nick Tremblay, formerly attached to the house staff of the Regent, returns to his position as assistant to Henry Marshall, manager of the Regent.

'Time, Place, Girl' Sets New Record

Warner Brothers' "The Time, the Place and the Girl," in the face of opposition from three other musicals, broke all existing house records for any one day at Odeon's Capitol Theatre in Hamilton on its first Saturday recently, according to the report of Connie Spencer, manager.

Salamis Replies To Report Critics

(Continued from Page 1)

14, "Principal Statistics for Film Exchanges in Canada, 1930 to 1945," gives a combined figure in 1930 and from 1933 to 1939 inclusive under the heading, "Total Receipts." From 1940 to 1945 (inclusive) film exchange revenue is shown under "Total Receipts" to be from three sources subheaded respectively "Film Rentals," "Advertising" and "Other Sources."

In Salamis' report he lumped the three and used the single figure as film rentals, thus adhering to the method of the Bureau of Statistics in 1939 and earlier. For instance, in 1945 the Bureau showed $17,490,264 under "Film Rentals," $358,250 under "Advertising" and $127,953 under "Other Sources" and Salamis added these figures together to show film rentals as $17,976,467.

Using the combined figure as the basis for his computations, Salamis claimed in his report, which was distributed to executives and the trade press, that 32.41 cents of every dollar taken in at the boxoffice in Canada goes for film rental, a higher ratio than that of the USA, which he contends is around 30 percent. He also claims that rentals have increased by 25.6 percent during three years, whereas receipts have gone up only by 19.3 percent.

Following the publication of his report the distributors expressed themselves as being puzzled as to the source of his figures but, because they seemed at odds with government totals, declared them to be erroneous. Their major objection was Salamis' failure to deduct 16 mm. rentals, amounting to $1,198,016 from the the government figure of $17,490,264 in 1945, before he began his computations.

In the matter of his use of the combined figure, Salamis says that expenditures for trailers used to advertise coming films are added to film costs and he saw no reason why the revenue from posters and other advertising materials should not be included in the figure on which he based his computations. In the past accessory costs were included in film costs, he says, and not with other advertising expenses such as newspaper ads.

From the standpoint of the exhibitor, the distributors' position regarding the inclusion of 16 mm. rentals in the total revenue is not a fair one, states Salamis. Such films, played in church halls and public places, provide ever-increasing competition for 35 mm. theatres and give the distributors revenue from the same product being played in standard theatres. If there were no 16 mm. films 35 mm. theatres would receive more business and would therefore be able to increase the amount paid to the exchanges. "Apparently," he writes, "in order to reduce the amount shown for the total film receipts in 1945, the distributors prefer to leave out this additional revenue."

Figures do not lie, he observes, and points out that the results depend on how they are interpreted, and that those offered by him, if the government precedent is given consideration, are identical with the figures offered by the Bureau of Statistics.

Apart from the figures given by both sides, Salamis claims, records from the majority of exhibitors of operation since 1941 will show higher rentals and a disproportionate increase, which is what he describes as "the essence of the report." The increased film rentals are due mostly to the increasing number of Specials offered each year.

"We should not forget Newton's Law of Gravity, 'To every action there is an equal and opposite reaction,'" he concludes. "If the exhibitors are not treated fairly, now that controls are out, there is bound to be dissension, which may lead to court disputes and government interference — as is the mess across the border. I hope that a central committee representing all the exhibitors will be formed to deal with their problems in the same way as the distributors' central committee."

USP Buys Novel

United States Pictures has purchased Roy Huggins' "Nothing but the Night" and will place it on the 1947 production schedule.

Film Weekly

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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McLean Is Made NF Board Head

(Continued from Page 1)

the University of Manitoba, he was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship in 1927 and subsequently studied at Balliol College, Oxford, travelling extensively throughout Europe and the Caribbean. After winning another scholarship and

ROSS McLEAN

receiving his B.Litt. he returned to America to do special work with the Unemployment Relief Commission of Illinois.

On his return to Canada in 1932 he became secretary of the Association of Canadian Clubs. He was also Ottawa correspondent for various publications including Saturday Night and the Canadian Forum. In 1935 he became editor of publications for the National Liberal Federation, later becoming private secretary to the Hon. Vincent Massey, former High Commissioner for Canada to the United Kingdom.

McLean has been with the National Film Board since its beginning in 1939 working on the various aspects of documentary films. In 1941 he was appointed assistant government film commissioner and deputy government film commissioner in 1943. In 1945 he filled in an acting capacity the post left vacant by Grierson.

The film commissioner as chief executive of the National Film Board advises on the production and distribution in Canada and abroad of all Canadian government films. He also directs the production and distribution of the film board's films, film strips, photographs and displays for the federal government.

Theatre Fire Slight

A minor blaze occurred recently in a pile of wood shavings near the stage of the Famous Players Oxford Theatre in Halifax, NS, causing negligible damage. Firemen responded to the alarm but patrons did not leave the theatre.

Churches Against 'Duel In The Sun'

Pending a classification on David O. Selznick's "Duel in the Sun" by the Legion of Decency, Roman Catholic and Protestant churches have turned in adverse reports charging the film is "immoral."

The Legion of Decency usually issues its statement on a new film before or at the time of release, but in this instance the film was shown in Los Angeles before the classification was forthcoming.

In a letter to pastors Archbishop Cantwell said Catholics "may not with a free conscience attend the motion picture 'Duel in the Sun.' This motion picture, of which the National Legion of Decency was not offered the usual advance viewing, appears to be morally offensive and spiritually depressing."

The Federation of Protestant Churches in Los Angeles sent a letter of protest to Selznick stating that "Wrong doing was shown to win every conflict with the right," and was signed by Melvin H. Harter, assistant to Dr. C. E. Farnham who is executive secretary.

More NFB 16 Mm. For Alberta Use

Talks between representatives of the Alberta government and officials of the National Film Board this month have paved the way for enlarged non-theatrical film operations in the prairie province. Jack Ralph, NFB's director of distribution and James Beveridge, production secretary of the board, conferred at length with Alberta government officials with resultant assurance of closer co-operation and relations between NFB and the government there.

Bing Crosby Elected Most Popular Person

Bing Crosby has been voted the "Most Popular Living Person" in a poll conducted by Jimmie Fidler on his network radio show. Crosby won the honor by a wide margin, with Frank Sinatra and Pope Pius in second and third place. The seven others selected were Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, General Dwight Eisenhower, Father Edward Flanagan, General Douglas MacArthur, Walter Winchell, Sister Elizabeth Kenny and Bob Hope.

Eagle-Lion (H'wood) Bows In With 'Joke'

First film from Eagle-Lion (Hollywood), "It's a Joke, Son," had its first showing in Austin, Texas, marking the real beginning of that company on the domestic scene.

The company's films will be distributed in Canada through PRC facilities, N. A. Taylor, H. J. Allen, David Griesdorf and H. S. Mandell having been active in the securing of the franchise for Canada.

Gunmen Rob Theatre

Two young gunmen recently held up and robbed Simon Cohen, manager of the Crown Theatre Toronto, and an employee, Thomas Burrow, in the theatre office and made good their escape with $42 from the safe and $23 from Cohen's wallet.

Lou Lodge Joins 20th Century

Successor to Al Hope, resigned as supervisor of projection for 20th Century Theatres, is Lou Lodge, who has served in the booths of a number of Toronto theatres.

Exhibitors Failing To Comply With Order

There is a likelihood that legislation will be passed to force exhibitors throughout the Province of Ontario, who have failed to do so, to comply with the request made by O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Motion picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch, that they label their films "adult entertainment" and refrain from terming pictures as such that have not been put in that category.

Four motion pictures have been added to the list of adult films. They are "Secrets of a Sorority Girl," "Deception," "Temptation" and "Her Sister's Secret."

FPCC Against Raised Theatre License Fee

Due to objections raised by Famous Players Canadian Corporation and city banks, council of Kamloops, BC, has deferred final passage of the new bylaw raising license fees. Under the new regulation permits for theatres were to be raised from $75 to $125.

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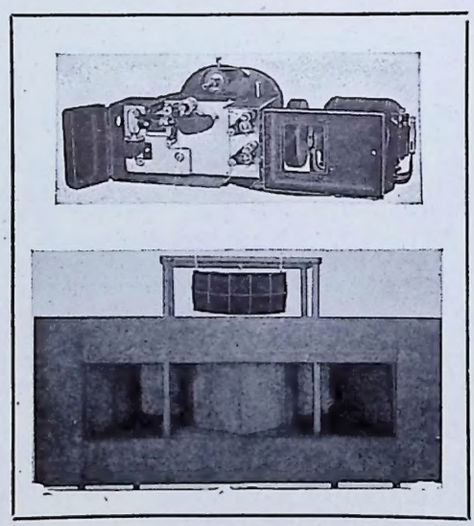

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Hollywood Vs. Scoffers

ers, declared that British pictures were over-rated. "Britain has not contributed one picture that has given us a better understanding of British problems," he said. "British picture makers have done nothing but give us pictures like 'Henry V,' 'Caesar and Cleopatra' and 'Brief Encounter.'

These were very good pictures, he said in explaining that he was speaking in defence of Hollywood rather than in criticism of foreign films.

Goldwyn told British producers that while they had produced a high percentage of good films the only reason why it was higher than the United States was that they produced fewer—in fact not enough to supply their own market if American pictures were placed on a low quota. While British product was improving, Hollywood was still the best, he contended. The only reason British producers had super cinemas in which to show their films was because American companies had been the pioneers. The USA Congress was now in a mood to meet foreign discrimination against its country's products with reprisals.

At present British producers are asking that the quota of playing time for British pictures be raised and that it be extended to include 16 mm. product. They also call for the "de-Americanization" of British Associated Pictures, 37½ per cent of which is owned by Warner Brothers.

Industry and non-industry attacks on the dramatic content of Hollywood films and the technique employed are usually coupled with praise of foreign films, mainly British. These, along with the preference given British and foreign films in their annual selections by British and USA reviewers, are beginning to draw defensive fire.

In a recent issue of Film Bulletin, "America's Independent Motion Picture Journal," Mo Wax goes after the critics in an outspoken editorial, "Aren't Our British Cousins Wonderful!" Writes he:

About this time each year, those charming chaps who review the films for the New York newspapers give us a sharp pain in our posterior region. We feel the pang most acutely just now because they have followed their annual custom of presenting to the world their "bests" in filmdom for the preceding year and, as is usually the case, they have tumbled overboard in their enthusiasm for the foreign entries.

(Continued from Page 1)

Now, mind you, we do not deny that the British, under the shrewd guidance of mogul J. Arthur Rank, made notable strides forward in film production during 1946. But—Sam Goldwyn to the contrary notwithstanding — the simple truth is that the American studios are still turning out the overwhelming bulk of first-class motion pictures and our cousins across the sea contrive only on rare occasions to produce one worthy of shipment to these shores.

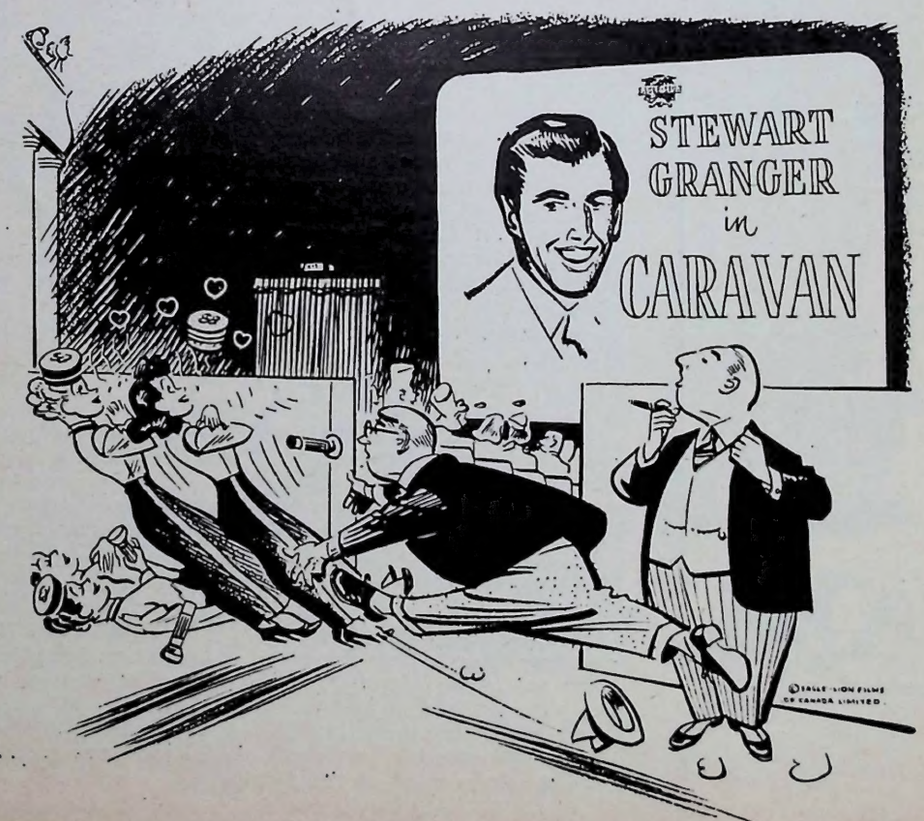
It annoys us, this tendency on the part of some American critics to gather so affectionately to their bosoms sundry foreign-made films that are really only fair-to-middling, while they give the brush-off to comparable—or better — pictures made in Hollywood. These reviewers give all the appearances of operating on some sort of a handicap scoring system like: any fair British picture shall be regarded as the equivalent of a good American picture. Damn sporting, but is it cricket, old boys?

Perhaps some of the virtues of the foreign pictures escape us, but, at risk of being called boorish, we voice the opinion that in many cases their foremost asset is mere novelty—in the sense of unfamiliar players and modest (by Hollywood standards) production values. But actors are not outstanding for the sole reason that they are not familiar, nor do shabby looking sets attest to a producer's or director's latent artistry. And we do not mean to imply that the employment of new faces lacks merit in picture making, or that all pictures must glisten with an extravagant sheen, but we insist that much of the foreign product wins praise over here for just such shallow reasons.

On the other hand, the critics yawn openly when reviewing many American-made films that outshine in every respect some of those so-called "bests" of foreign origin. Of course, they condescended to award the "best picture" prize to Mr. Goldwyn's "The Best Years of Our Lives," but even that came only after a tussle with a British film.

How can the contention that our own product does not receive a fair shake be proved? Let's think of several Hollywood films that received little or no recognition from the New York critics on their select list for last year: "It's A Wonderful Life," "The Killers," "To Each His Own," "Anna and the King of Siam," "The Big Sleep," "Notorious," "Angel On My Shoulder," "Dark Mirror," "The Stranger," among others. Ask yourself what the response of the critical gentry would have been had these pictures been produced in some other country. It is a safe bet that almost everyone would have elicited rapturous praise and something like a six picture dead-heat for top honors would have resulted. Unfortunately, it seems that in the subconscious minds of the critics some of these films are "tainted" by their Hollywood origin; that, or they simply are taken for granted.

Heaven knows (as do our readers) that Film Bulletin makes no apologies for the inadequacies of Hollywood, its extravagance and its abundance of dead-heads, but it is a grievous injustice to American film people to shower the honors on the British and French for the occasional good movie they send over to us. We need criticism, yes, but in some quarters it takes on the shape of unthinking bias against our own product.



"Male ushers may be the answer! It's a problem."

'OTCHI TCHORNIYE'

A story in words and music of the Russian Gypsy song "Dark Eyes" told for the first time in a motion picture by gypsies themselves--a story which has been handed down from father to son, from gypsy mother to her babes in arms.

Short subject—Two reels

ASTRAL ANNOUNCES:

The first of a new series of British Singles as timely as today's headlines

'INDIAN BACKGROUND'

A picture of mysterious India — Its traditions — Its people — Its complex problems

ONE OF THE MOST VITAL TOPICS OF THE DAY

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ASTRAL FILMS

I. H. ALLEN

6 Dundas Square Toronto

IT ISN'T FUN TO BE FOOLED. It begins to look as though a joker was responsible for making Glenn Ireton think he lost $750 by listening to Treasure Trail. Someone phoned Dan Krendel with the same routine. Dan didn't get excited because that was the first day of his new phone number and it wasn't in the book yet, so how could Treasure Trail come upon it? He then checked the program listings for the day and Treasure Trail wasn't scheduled. How can you give a Sherlock like that the needle? . . . Syd Samson became a grandpappy for the second time recently, this time to a boy, and he is poking fun at such one-timers as Haskell Masters . . . Will that ex-Vancouverite, Russell Simpson, stop his taunting about the superiority of Pacific Coast weather to ours, now that it's raining here and snowing there? . . . Wish my limpy prose would lend itself to really expressing how I feel about that horrible Harbord line service . . . Civilization comes to the Chinese laundry: I saw the truck of a leading modern large washery picking up the soiled linen from an Oriental laundry. Are they just middlemen now?

* * *

THEY HAD QUITE A TIME at a downtown theatre when the wrong reels got on the screen. The manager mounted the stage and apologized, explaining that the reels had been numbered wrong. The film then started again—with the wrong reel . . . A recent Liberty profile by Gerald Hawkins was devoted to Norman McLaren who "draws as well as Salvador Dali" but prefers to make animated shorts for the NFB . . . I still think the funniest comedy bit in years was the La Savat scene in "The Great John L" . . . Swellest show in years was the Trudi Schoop comic ballet. Its pantomimicry was priceless—an entire musical show without a word spoken . . . Overheard: "The Winston Grill changed locks when they learned that he had a key" . . . At lunch the other day someone recalled the exhibitor who, when he went on vacation, gave his manager boxoffice reports for the pictures to play while he was away. The manager mixed them up and mailed the first one to the exchange a week before the film opened!

* * *

THE HALIFAX PAPERS went all out for Len Bishop on the fire story, he having enjoyed much popularity there in other years. They must have dug deep into the morgue for the photograph used, for the lad with the delicate hair is shown with quite a thatch . . . Guest of the Theatrical Knights of the Green Table the other midnight was Harry Wilson of the Capitol, Chatham, who, like most other out-of-towners, abused our hospitality by winning . . . I like Raymond Allen's phrase about the local theatre industry, which he describes as "the second most taxed business and first most abused" . . . Tell me, he that knows—where among the preponderance of dictionaries and other books of information is there a list which tells whether a resident of Hollywood is a Hollywoodian and so on?

* * *

ADOLPH ZUKOR, PARAMOUNT CHAIRMAN, who has always enjoyed the affection of all who know him or have heard him speak, celebrated a great event in his life recently. Mrs. Zukor and he were honored by friends and associates in New York on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

Born in Ricse, Hungary, he came to the United States in 1888 with $25 sewn in his only suit and got a job in an upholsterer's shop for two dollars per week. Later he became a furrier. The new form of entertainment soon attracted him and it was his faith in it as a medium of presenting great literature which led it to becoming an art instead of a mere novelty. When Mary Pickford saw merit in his belief and joined him, a courageous step then, they proved they were right. The character of the screen today reflects his fine influence, which helped make finer the mind of the people.

Canadians will join with the legions of the grateful in wishing Mr. and Mrs. Zukor the very best on their anniversary.

Theatres Open In Ontario, BC

(Continued from Page 1)

len, circuit executive; Dave Seigel, supervisor of projection; and O. J. Silverthorne, head of the Provincial theatre and film department.

Earlier this month the Van Isle, Campbell River, BC, was opened by Edward W. Bickle as the fourth in a chain he is building. The auditorium seats 499 and the building, which embodies the most modern in architecture and workmanship, is said to be among the most beautiful of its type in the province.

Due to be opened this week is Premier Operating's 250-seat Red Rock, Ontario, theatre. Other theatres approaching their openings are the Fort, Fort William, Ontario; and the Rivoli, North Sydney, Nova Scotia. The Fort, in the Westfort district, will cost $85,000 and seat 600. Gordon Carson, city alderman and at present manager of the Royal Theatre, is associated with Russell Mayotte and W. T. Baird in its operation and will act as manager. The Rivoli, an Odeon unit, will replace the theatre of the same name destroyed by fire last year.

Also under construction are Joseph Wolfond's Guelph, Ontario, theatre, and Famous Players $250,000 theatre building at 100 Bloor Street, Toronto, which will seat 1,530. In Montreal work is on for Odeon's $200,000 project at LaSalle and St. Catherine W. Paramount Windsor Theatres has begun erection of a 914-seat house at an estimated cost of $150,000.

Theatres are in various stages of planning in a number of communities. M. Jenkins of Red Lake, Ontario, will have a 303-seat theatre built there from plans by Green, Blankstein and Russell, Winnipeg architects. Work will begin in Spring. Schedule for the beginning of construction of a house in Cobourg, Ontario, for Mrs. Mary Sutherland and Premier Operating has not been set yet, and the same is the case with the projected 1,800-seat theatre in Port Arthur for Famous Players. A drive-in theatre will be erected in Windsor by Paramount Windsor Theatres, the first in which Famous Players is interested.

A number of the communities where 35 mm. houses are being erected are being serviced exclusively with 16 mm.

Ron Randell Debut

Ron Randell, Australian star, will make his debut in Columbia's "Bulldog Drummond at Bay."

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 12, No. 5 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Till the Clouds Roll By

with an All-Star Cast

MGM 120 Mins.

IN THE MGM-ANNER, THIS IS ONE OF THE SEASON'S NOTABLE EVENTS; AN ALL-TIME CEILING OFFERING IN MUSIC, PRODUCTION, TECHNICOLOR, STARS.

"Til the Clouds Roll By" goes into the gallery of super-musicals and at once challenges the place held by previous tenants. Just about every important "name" on the Metro lot is connected with the film. The term lush has been applied to many films in the past but this one suits the word to every letter and then some.

It's Jerome Kern's biography in screen terms, with an overload of his music. Seems he never wrote a tune that did not catch on and here's two solid hours of high spots, hit numbers and a simply told story of musical success.

It's that kind of a picture. Big, warm, gay, scenic, eye-filling showmanlike, opulent and caparisoned with every element to round it out. The brightest luminaries are made brighter, they are sustained and heightened.

In the biographical section, Robert Walker plays Jerome Kern and Van Heflin is "James Hessler," who was largely responsible for Kern's initial success and encouragement. The early segments of the story are semi-serious and establish Walker in the musical world. In England he meets his wife, Dorothy Patrick. Then once more in America he becomes the great name, is contemporary music with the pinnacle of fame and fortune arrived at in Hollywood.

Interwoven is the story of Heflin's daughter, Joan Wells as a child and Lucille Bremer later, and her climb to fame by way of the theatre, where she misses out, then later via night clubs during prohibition and finally Hollywood, to star in a Kern show. These aspects of the story have conviction and serve firmly as groundwork for the towering structure of music.

The first production number is from "Show Boat" and launches the show. Seen to their best advantage are Kathryn Grayson, Tony Martin, Lena Horne and Virginia O'Brien.

Judy Garland has the spotlight in two superb numbers directed by Vincente Minnelli which are paragons of his ability and style.

This is the picture in which Van Johnson suddenly is seen as a bandleader in a Memphis nitery.

CAST: June Allyson, Lucille Bremer, Judy Garland, Kathryn Grayson, Van Heflin, Lena Horne, Van Johnson, Tony Martin, Dinah Shore, Frank Sinatra, Robert Walker, Gower Champion, Cyd Charisse, Harry Hayden, Paul Langton, Angela Lansbury, Paul Macey, Ray McDonald, Mary Nash, Virginia O'Brien, Dorothy Patrick, Caleb Peterson, William Phillips, Joan Wells, The Wilde Twins.

CREDITS: Producer, Arthur Freed; Director, Richard Whorf; Story by Guy Bolton; Adapted by George Wells; Screenplay by Myles Connoly and Jean Holloway.

DIRECTION, Superb. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

Little Miss Big

with Fred Brady, Fay Holden, Frank McHugh

Universal 60 Mins.

MODERN FAIRY TALE FOR GENERAL AUDIENCES; NEEDS PUNCHY SUPPORT TO FILL THE PROGRAM.

The film has several emotional high spots which are overshadowed by the draggy delivery of lines and the inclusion of situations to build up the precocious talents of Beverly Simmons who still has a few years to reach her teens.

Fay Holden carries the burden of the story well, in her portrayal of "the richest woman in the world" whose nephew, John Eldredge, attempts to have her committed to an insane asylum in order to take over her estate which she threatens to leave to her faithful cocker spaniel.

Frank McHugh gives the film its much-needed comedy relief, while the rest of the cast walks through its lines.

The screenplay has Holden escaping from an asylum and finding shelter in the apartment adjoining Frank McHugh's barber shop. Fred Brady, in love with Dorothy Morris, McHugh's daughter, finds the possibility to pursue his law career when he discovers a loophole in Holden's sanity trial, consequently winning freedom for the dowager from the asylum as well as her conniving relatives.

CAST: Beverly Simmons, Fay Holden, Frank McHugh, Fred Brady, Dorothy Morris, Milburn Stone, Samuel S. Hinds.

CREDITS: Producer, Marshall Grant; Associate Producer, Stanley Rubin; Director, Erle C. Kenton; Assistant Director, Charles S. Gould; Screenplay, Erna Lazarus; Based on story by Harry H. Poppe: Cameraman, Paul Ivano.

DIRECTION, Fair. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fair.

Magnificent Doll

with Ginger Rogers, David Niven, Burgess Meredith

Universal 95 Mins.

IMRESSIVE HISTORICAL STORY OF EARLY AMERICA SUPERBLY PLAYED BY ROGERS, MEREDITH, NIVEN; FIRST-RATE PRODUCTION; A TOP RANK ITEM.

This is an impressive venture. "Magnificent Doll," played to perfection, and with consummate skill by Ginger Rogers, reveals her a clever, thinking woman inspiring early American historical figures to realize their destiny.

Frank Borzage's master direction derives a powerful film from the original story of Irving Stone. While his prime theme is the woman, he has also gone behind the scenes to the little known aspects of first revelations of native fascism in the hectic political period between two wars. This is indicated, heightened and brought up sharply in the character of Aaron Burr and his abortive move to sow revolt against the early government. Largely through the efforts of Dolly Madison it is a failure.

Miss Rogers' life as the daughter of a Virginia planter, wife of a Philadelphia Quaker, a mother for a brief period, as a widow and finally as wife to James Madison is the main theme and is told in fine, coherent terms.

The story becomes a contest for the Widow Payne's (Miss Rogers') hand between David Niven and Meredith, as Burr and Madison, respectively. This against a background of early legislative endeavor—groundwork of American law.

Dolly Madison reaches the point where she is the next First Lady. Meanwhile Burr is on trial for his life. He is acquitted. Mrs. Madison answering his plea goes to Richmond. A mob threatens to hang Burr but Mrs. Madison with pointed oratory and a sound argument against martyring Burr and discrediting the laws which freed him, dramatically saves the day.

CAST: Ginger Rogers, Burgess Meredith, David Niven, Horace McNally, Peggy Wood, Frances Williams, Robert Barrat.

CREDITS: Producer, Jack H. Skirball; Director, Frank Borzage; Original story and screenplay, Irving Stone; Cameraman, Joseph Valentine.

DIRECTION, Fine. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

Bob Hope's Next

Bob Hope will next star in Paramount's "Pale Face."

AN ASTOR PICTURE

The fastest, merriest musical madventure that ever tip-tapped across the screen!

FRED ASTAIRE PAULETTE GODDARD

"SECOND CHORUS"

ARTIE SHAW AND HIS BAND
CHARLES BUTTERWORTH
BURGESS MEREDITH

DISTRIBUTED BY

PEERLESS FILMS
LIMITED

TORONTO - MONTREAL - ST. JOHN

Much Higher Cut, Mat Prices

(Continued from Page 1)

without a corresponding lift in trade prices. At the present time engravers costs are three times what they formerly were.

The following increases are effective February 1st:

Cuts—1 column, formerly 50c, now 80c; 2 column, formerly $1, now $1.60; 3 column, formerly 1.50, now $2.40; 4 column, formerly $2, now $3.20.

Mats— 1 column, formerly 25c now 50c; 2 column, formerly 50c, now $1; 3 column, formerly 75c, now $1.50; 4 column, formerly $1, now $2; 5 column, formerly $1.50, now $2.50.

Increased costs to the distributors by the engravers made the hike, as quoted above, imperative.

Three Stooges Short Goes Into Production

An untitled Three Stooges two-reeler went into production at Columbia recently under the direction of Edward Bernds. In addition to the stars, Moe and Curly Howard and Larry Fine, the cast includes Christine McIntyre, Phillip Van Zandt, Jacques O'Mahoney, Vernon Dent and Harold Brauer. The script was written by Bernds. Hugh McCollum is the producer.

Liberty's Gift to Fitzgibbons

J. J. Fitzgibbons, president of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, is shown, right, shaking hands with Jack K. Cooke, new president and publisher of Liberty of Canada and vice-president of Skyway Drive-in Theatres, Limited, on the presentation by Cooke of a hunting jacket and cap, complete with knife, suggested by a two-page spread in Liberty on Warner Brothers' motion picture, "Cloak and Dagger."

The gift card read—To: John J. Fitzgibbons, Esquire, President of Famous Players Canadian Corporation, Ltd., with the compliments of Jack K. Cooke, President & Publisher Liberty of Canada, Ltd. "May you always have happy hunting for motion pictures like Warner Bros. 'Cloak and Dagger'."

Theatre Men Ask For Winnipeg Auditorium

Winnipeg city council could not reach a decision on the recent request of a group of Toronto film men for use of the civic auditorium concert hall to show motion pictures. Pictures to be shown in the hall, according to the Toronto syndicate, are of a type not shown in the regular city theatres.

The group plans to soundproof the hall and have the city reimburse them later. At present when the big hall is busy the concert hall cannot be used. The auditorium commission feels that due to this factor the concert hall is not being used as much as it could be. Council finally decided to ask the auditorium commission for a recommendation on use of the hall.

Bedford Stage Show

Ralph Wilson, manager of 20th Century Theatres' Toronto house, the Bedford, is currently running a stage show every Thursday evening, featuring Ken Rolland and his "Stars of the Future" program.

King Brothers Set Three For Allied

"Low Company," by Daniel Fuchs, has been scheduled as the first King Brothers' production to go before the cameras for Allied Artists. In addition the Kings will produce, during the next six months, MacKinlay Kantor's "Gun Crazy" and Steve Monaghan's "Last of the Bad Men" for the same company.

The King story bank also includes Steve Fisher's "The Hunted;" Arthur Miller's best seller, "Focus;" Phil Yordan's "The Wabash Blues," and Francis Sill Wickware's novel, "Dangerous Ground."

'Criminal Court'

Stars of RKO's "Criminal Court" are Martha O'Driscoll and Tom Conway.

Para Staff Organizes

Ushers, doormen, cashiers and stenographers of the four British Columbia Paramount theatres have organized the Theatrical Assistants' Guild, Federal Union No. 252, chartered by the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada.

1,164-Seat Prefab House Operating

(Continued from Page 1)

the circuit, boasts "303 wonders" or innovations, including facilities for television installation.

With a seating capacity of 1,164, the Crest is described as a pre-fashioned theatre because it was pre-designed, cut and constructed at the factory and later assembled by pattern on its site in Long Beach.

The new-type theatre was born at a conference on August 23, 1945, with Henry Kaiser, the industrialist, who advised Skouras such a project was feasible. Kaiser engineers subsequently joined with the theatre executives in working out details for the mass production of such showplaces.

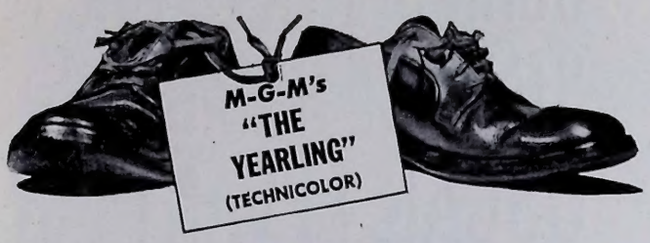
The Crest is of all steel construction with gypsum panels assembled together and erected upon concrete foundations. No plaster was used in any part of the theatre, the walls and ceilings being covered with specially designed fire-proof panels of a Fiberglas mat and iron grille which contain noise absorption values much higher than provided by ordinary sound-proof materials.

A vast market for pre-fashioned theatres, Skouras declares, exists primarily in many small towns in the United States as well as in the bombed out areas of Europe and Asia. When materials become available, an assembly line in Los Angeles can start turning out such theatres as fast as the orders arrive, he said.

A few of the many features of the Crest include the following:

1. Vacuum show cleaner in front of entrance door. This cleans the dirt from patrons' shoes as they enter.
2. Continuous music in lounge, rest rooms and foyer.
3. Air-cooled davenport in lounge.
4. Partitions can be moved and rooms re-arranged because all sections are bolted at top and bottom and are easily removed.
5. All seats in theatre are 36 inches back to back.
6. Theatre is entirely prefabricated from the foundation.
7. Stage drapes are of Fiberglas, fireproof and mothproof.
8. Heating system is new development, using instantaneous hot water heater with a pump. Occupies a small amount of space, is easy to install and connect.
9. Manager has full control of heating and ventilating with temperature control and switches in his office.
10. Installed in the main ventilating ducts are banks of germicidal lamps used to kill airborne bacteria.

YOU'D LIKE TO BE IN THESE SHOES!



Gregory Peck, Jane Wyman, Claude Jarman, Jr.

Now the industry knows what we have long predicted! M-G-M's Prize Picture is shattering *all* records in its Road-show World Premiere at the Carthay Circle, Los Angeles. The critics are ecstatic! For instance. Says Louella Parsons: "One of the finest screen dramas to come into our lives, one of Hollywood's all-time great!" And the L. A. Herald Express predicts "Everyone connected with it becomes a prime contender for Hollywood's top honors, the Academy Awards." And columnist Dorothy Kilgallen says: "Our own Academy Award—Best Motion Picture of the Year, 'The Yearling'."

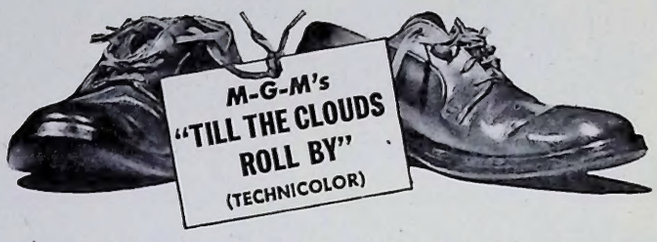
Claudette Colbert, Walter Pidgeon, June Allyson

EXTRA! BREAKS ALL-TIME CAPITOL RECORD!

Listen! "The Secret Heart" has broken the 27-year Capitol, N. Y. record for a week's business! The Los Angeles opening broke all-time records. And in its first 30 engagements it takes its place with M-G-M's top money-getters! It's a "heart" of gold!

Mickey Rooney, Lewis Stone

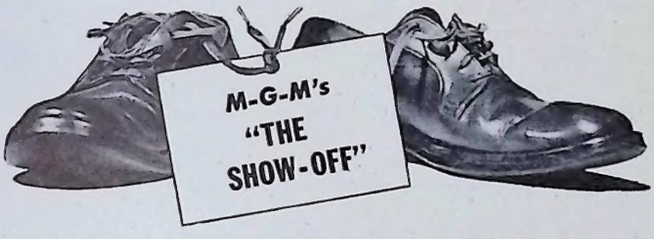
Mickey's back! Get ready to continue the Hardy Hit Habit with the newest and best of them all!



Van Johnson, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, June Allyson, Robert Walker, Kathryn Grayson, Van Heflin, Dinah Shore, Lucille Bremer, Lena Horne, Angela Lansbury, Tony Martin, Virginia O'Brien

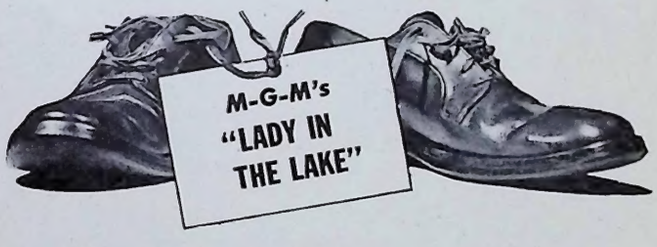
EXTRA! BREAKS MUSIC HALL RECORDS!

Have you heard the news! "Till The Clouds Roll By" in its first 4 weeks at Radio City Music Hall has not only set an all-time record for that famed house but has rolled up the biggest week's gross ever reached by any theatre at any time anywhere on earth! In first 40 dates it's one of the Biggest M-G-M Grossers!



Red Skelton, Marilyn Maxwell

"Show-off" is off to a flying start! It's showing off to fine business in its first 45 dates. A rollicking audience hit for your folks!



Robert Montgomery, Audrey Totter, Lloyd Nolan

The most unusual offering since talkies began. A new technique to tell a thrilling mystery drama! Collier's calls it revolutionary! Sensational advance publicity everywhere! Watch the magazines!

Warners'
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JOAN CRAWFORD AND JOHN GARFIELD ARE THE STARS OF **HUMORESQUE**
OSCAR LEVANT AND J. CARROL NAISH · RUTH NELSON · PAUL CAVANAGH ARE ALSO IN **HUMORESQUE**
JERRY WALD IS THE PRODUCER OF **HUMORESQUE**
JEAN NEGULESCO DIRECTED **HUMORESQUE**
CLIFFORD ODETS AND ZACHARY GOLD WROTE THE SCREEN PLAY FOR **HUMORESQUE** FRANZ WAXMAN CONDUCTED THE MUSIC FOR **HUMORESQUE**
BASED ON THE STORY BY FANNIE HURST